

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT JA

SUBJ: KOMEITO POSITION OO JOINT CAMPAIGNS IN 1974 UPPER HOUSE
ELECTION

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUMMARY: IN PRESS CONFERENCE FRIDAY IN SAPPORO CHAIRMAN TAKEIRI OUTLINED KOMEITO CONDITIONS FOR COOPERATION WITH OTHER OPPOSITION PARTIES IN 1974 UPPER HOUSE ELECTION CAMPAIGN. HOWEVER, REITERATION OF DOUBTS BY TAKEIRI THAT COMMUNISTS WOULD CONTINUE TO DEFEND PRESENT CONSTITUTION PROVOKED IMMEDIATE RESPONSE BY JCP CHAIRMAN MIYAMOTO THAT NEW CONDITIONS STATED BY KOMEITO ARE DESIGNED TO EXCLUDE JCP FROM JOINT ELECTION CAMPAIGN, AND THUS REPRESENT STEP BACKWARD FROM POSSIBLE COOPERATION AMONG OPPOSITION PARTIES. END SUMMARY.

1. CHAIRMAN YOSHIKATSU TAKEIRI OPENED MAJOR POLITICAL TOUR OF HOKKAIDO OVER WEEKEND WITH PRESS CONFERENCE IN SAPPORO FRIDAY, IN WHICH HE OUTLINED MINIMUM CONDITIONS FOR KOMEITO COOPERATION WITH OTHER OPPOSITION PARTIES IN 1974 UPPER HOUSE ELECTION.

FOLLOWING PREFACE THAT PROGRESSIVES NOW HAVE HOPE OF DEFEATING CONSERVATIVES IN NATIONAL ELECTION FOR FIRST TIME SINCE END OF WAR, TAKEIRI URGED THAT ALL OPPOSITION PARTIES CONCENTRATE

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EFFORTS IN JOINT STRUGGLE TO DEFEAT LDP AND LEAVE DEBATE OF

DIVERGENT CONCEPTS OF OPPOSITION COALITION GOVERNMENT FOR LATER. TAKEIRI STATED THAT MINIMUM CONDITION POSED BY KOMEITO FOR COOPERATION WITH OTHER OPPOSITION PARTIES IS THEIR AGREEMENT TO DEFEND THREE PRINCIPLES EMBODIED IN PRESENT CONSTITUTION, I.E., PERMANENT PACIFISM, GUARANTEE OF BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS AND VESTING OF SOVEREIGNTY IN PEOPLE.

2. STRESSING THAT PRINCIPAL GOAL IS TO WIN SEATS FROM LDP, TAKEIRI ANNOUNCED THAT KOMEITO WOULD EVEN CONSIDER QTE SOME ADJUSTMENT UNQTE AMONG OWN CANDIDATES ALREADY ENDORSED TO RUN IN LOCAL CONSTITUENCIES, PROVIDED OTHER OPPOSITION PARTIES AGREE TO ITS MINIMUM CONDITIONS FOR JOINT CAMPAIGN.

3. TAKEIRI EXPLAINED THAT KOMEITO WOULD RELY ON QTE BRIDGE FORMULA UNQTE IN COOPERATING WITH OTHER OPPOSITION PARTIES, I.E., KOMEITO WOULD COOPERATE WITH JSP, BUT WOULD IMPOSE NO RESTRICTION ON JSP COOPERATION WITH JCP. ASKED TO EXPLAIN BRIDGE FORMULA DURING Q&A WHICH FOLLOWED, TAKEIRI RULED OUT DIRECT KOMEITO COOPERATION WITH JCP BY REITERATING DOUBT THAT LATTER WOULD CONTINUE IN FUTURE TO DEFEND THREE CONSTITUTIONAL PRINCIPLES CITED ABOVE.

4. NEXT DAY JCP CHAIRMAN KENJI MIYAMOTO ISSUED HIGHLY CRITICAL PUBLIC STATEMENT CHARACTERIZING TAKEIRI POSITION AS QTE RETREAT UNQTE DESIGNED TO OBSTRUCT COOPERATION AMONG OPPOSITION PARTIES. MIYAMOTO ALSO CHARGED THAT KOMEITO ATTEMPT TO IMPOSE NEW CONDITIONS FOR ELECTION COOPERATION IS DESIGNED TO EXCLUDE JCP FROM JOINT OPPOSITION CAMPAIGN FOR UPPER HOUSE SEATS.

5. COMMENT: FUNDAMENTAL MUTUAL DISTRUST BETWEEN KOMEITO AND JCP CONTINUES TO BUBBLE TO SURFACE IN EXCHANGES SUCH AS ABOVE WITH SUCH FREQUENCY THAT WE CAN ONLY CONCLUDE THAT PROSPECTS FOR ELECTION COOPERATION BETWEEN THEM ARE REMOTE, EVEN THOUGH BOTH PUBLICLY AGREE ON NEED TO DEFEAT LDP IN COMING UPPER HOUSE ELCTION. MORE OVER, GIVEN DEEP-ROOTED KOMEITO SUSPICION OF LONG-TERM POLITICAL GOALS OF JCP, KOMEITO INITIATIVE TO IMPROVE POLITICAL RAPPORT BETWEEN THEM IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE SEEMS HIGHLY UNLIKELY. END COMMENT.

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